

Utah Zone Operations Committee
Meeting Notes March 6, 2001

Committee members attending:

Ivan Erskine, Fire Staff Officer, Ashley National Forest
Ed Secakuku, Fire Management Officer, Uintah & Ouray Agency
Tracy Dunford, Fire Operations, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
Dave Bott, Fire Operations, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management
Art Latterell, Fire Management Officer, Zion National Park
Randy Hart, Manager, Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center

Also attending

Sheldon Wimmer, State Fire Management Officer, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management
Susan Marzec, External Affairs Specialist, Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management

The meeting was held at the conference room of the Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center, and began at 0900 and concluded at 1530.

1. Discussion of status of the Utah Cooperative Fire Management Agreement and relationship to the Statewide Annual Operating Plan

Copies of both documents (in draft) were presented and reviewed by the group. The language in the 2001 Agreement clarifies the status of the Operations Committee in relation to the Utah Interagency Fire Management Committee, a group which has not met except to develop the Agreement. Based on this understanding, the group decided that the charter which had been developed by the committee a year ago might be applicable to the UIFMC, and that a new charter for the Utah Zone Operations Committee was needed. The Agreement still tasked the Ops Committee with updating an annual operating plan. Status of the Agreement was uncertain; it was understood that Jim Shell had sent it around electronically for review. The review process for BIA was unclear. An electronic copy will be sent to Randy. (Done 3/30/01)

2. Review and Update of Statewide Annual Operating Plan

Discussion was led by Tracy Dunford, who is accomplishing this task for the committee. Some changes were made to the Flame-n-goes, now to be a type 2 crew and there will be a Lone Peak type 1 crew. Other changes and additions reflect action taken later in the meeting: appending a charter, and adding in a schedule for interagency readiness review.

3. Development of Updated Zone Charter/rotation of committee chairperson

The updated Zone charter is attached. Ivan Erskine will take over as Zone chairperson after the fall committee meeting. Randy Hart was added to the committee as a permanent technical adviser.

4. Discussion of Wildland Urban Interface Communities and Projects/Rural Fire Assistance (NFP)

Sheldon and Dave introduced Susan to the committee. Susan made a presentation to the committee on the above topics, and read from a memorandum that most committee members had not seen, from Lyle Laverty and Tim Hartzell regarding updating the communities at risk and proposed projects, with some short due dates. A plan was developed to meet the timeframes, with Susan representing DOI at a meeting with the State and USFS by March 16 to review and update communities. BLM would provide a GIS map with the communities, and a listing would also be sent out. A meeting was planned on March 26 to review projects. There was concern about tribal councils having time for input. Susan agreed to contact DOD and FWS. The rest of the committee would get input from their agencies. It was understood that Jim Shell was working on this for the Forest Service; however, he could not be contacted during the time of the meeting.

5. Interagency Readiness Reviews

The committee agreed it was desirable to have interagency fire readiness reviews, within the state, using the standard national checklists. It was agreed that every three years all of the units within the state would participate in these reviews, which would focus on all the units served by the interagency dispatch centers at the same time. A schedule was developed in coordination with tentative regional USFS review schedules and the BLM Utah state office schedule. There was concern that national reviews be tied in to the process as well. The committee felt implementation would get better once the process started, and the important thing was to start someplace. The schedule will be included in the Statewide Annual Operating Plan.

2001 Salt Lake Interagency Fire Center & National BLM Review Utah (try for interagency involvement)

2002 Richfield Interagency Fire Center

2003 Cedar City IFC (Dixie NF, Zion, Bryce, Cedar City BLM, Arizona Strip BLM)

2004 Interagency Review – Uintah Basin IFC, Moab IFC

Discussed team structure. Ivan to update this section for AOP.

6. Discussion of need for pre-season assessment
7. Information sharing
8. Team meeting and team stuff, nothing new

Minutes submitted 3/3/01 Art Latterell, Zone Chairperson